

# THE OLDTIMER

Volume 34, Number 3

The Newsletter of the Josephine County Historical Society

October 1999

## We Have a Date

### OCTOBER

- All Month. The town of Grants Pass will be celebrating *Heritage Days*. The JCHS is a prominent player in this celebration. Stop by the Schmidt House to see the Siskiyou Decorative Artists Exhibit.
- Saturday, October 9 from 12 pm to 2 pm. Esther Bristol will be at the Schmidt House to sign her book, *Through the Years*.
- Sunday, October 10 at either 1 pm or 6 pm. The Living History Players will be giving a performance at the Barnstormers Theater at 112 NE Evelyn Street. Sponsored by the JCHS, admission is \$5 and tickets are available at either the JCHS or the Chamber of Commerce.
- Saturday, October 30 at either 1 pm or 7 pm. See the spirits come to life as the JCHS sponsors cemetery tours of both the Oddfellows and Masonic Cemeteries. Tickets are \$5 and are available at either the JCHS or the Chamber of Commerce.

### NOVEMBER

- Sunday, November 14 at 2:30 pm. The Annual Awards Meeting for the JCHS will be held in the Schmidt Barn. See p. 7 for details.

### DECEMBER

- All Month. The JCHS Bookshop will be stocked for gift giving! Look for further details coming soon on the Holiday Bake Sale and Flea Market.



*At the Style Show, Jean's dressed in 1900s nighty fashion*

### Jean Boling, "A Working Board Member"

Jean Boling has only been in Josephine County for three years--but sometimes it seems much longer. Although relatively new to the area, she was already aware of some of our history, since Jean's folks often sent her local history publications for Christmas and birthday presents. She has always loved history and reads more history than fiction.

Jean originally became involved with the Society as a Living History Player, taking the part of Flora Schmidt in reenactments at the Schmidt House and the Cemetery Tour. In late 1997 she was asked to be secretary on the Society's Executive Board. In June of 1998 when the Publishing Committee needed a new editor for the *Mondays Make History* column, Jean, while still secretary, took over the position. In addition to fulfilling these two large commitments, Jean wears several other JCHS hats: she volunteers by managing the membership database, handling the e-mail messages, conducting research, working on grants, designing flyers, ads, and mailings for everything from the pie social to bus tours.

Jean was very involved in the 1998 Smithsonian exhibit, *Produce for Victory: Posters on the American Homefront*, and the 1999 Oregon Historical Society's *Treasures of Oregon* exhibit. Jean still manages to portray her choice of three characters for Living History presentations; four, if you count Clara Voorhies in the Christmas program.

Jean does have some life outside of the Society: she is the recorder for the City Council, the Urban Area Planning Commission and the Rural Planning Commission. Thank you, Jean, for all that you do!

Jean says, "I can do a Schmidt House tour that lasts two hours; show up at every function ready to work as well as enjoy; and, I pan gold at Sourdough Gulch like a pro!"

Jean recently saw a t-shirt that she said is just the one she needs: "But...I don't have time for a real job."

Trust us folks, we at the society are keeping her true to her word!

## *Letters to the Editor*

### **JCHS:**

Thanks for helping make our Project Awareness Class "Arts and Culture Day" on April 29 a success again this year! Please relay our appreciation to the volunteers that were so entertaining and helpful.

Thanks for a great tour of the Society! You always do a fantastic job.

**Dwight F. Ellis  
Ex. Dir., Chamber of Commerce**

### **JCHS:**

Stopped in while reading about the Applegate Trail. My mother was an Applegate, and just died at 90. I'm following up with her love of genealogy. Our group was in Ohio. How fun to find them in New Jersey and now Oregon. I enjoyed the info. Thanks.

**Cheryl Castleberry  
clccastle@webtv.net**

### **Mollie Means:**

This money is for a donation from the Shelter School tour of the Schmidt House on June 30.

Thanks again, it was a wonderful tour and the students really enjoyed it. They talked about it the whole way back.

**Tanya Allen  
Shelter School Teacher**

### **Rose Scott:**

On behalf of AARP, I want to thank you for your wonderful speech at our May meeting. We enjoyed meeting you and look forward to seeing you again at one of our meetings.

**Sunny Sundquist  
Program Chair**

### **JCHS:**

The Grants Pass Towne Center Association would like to offer you an exchange membership to further enhance both your organization and ours!

We would like to exchange memberships because it will keep you informed about "The Heart of the Community," downtown Grants Pass, and help us to understand your organization and what your goals are. We feel a membership exchange would be beneficial to both of our organizations.

We're looking forward to a mutually beneficial relationship now and in the future!

**Ward Warren  
TCA President  
Pat Sheets  
TCA Director**

### **Mollie Means and the History Players:**

We would like to thank you for the program that you and your company put on for us. We heard nothing but raving comments by our campers that attended the program. We hope to see you next year, and we hope that you have a great winter.

Once again, thank you and hope to see you soon.

**Staff Members  
Valley of the Rogue State Park**

### **Joan Momsen:**

Thank you for the recent, delightful experience: the Crater Lake bus tour on July 24. It was educational and perfect in every way. On the trip, I signed up for the August 14 trip to Crescent City, California. A recent arrival in Southern Oregon, I am interested in everything about this area.

Please keep me informed of all trips, etc. planned by the Society.

**Audre DuVall  
New JCHS Member**

**PHOTO DEN  
CAMERA  
VIDEO**



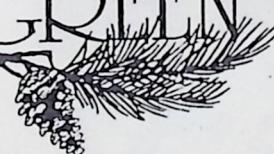
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## *Words from the Book Shop*

### **Special Notes:**

#### **Volunteers Extraordinaire:**

A special thank you to the Society's wonderful volunteers: Marge Shaw, Kerry Mitchell, Jan Collins and Darlene Leach; and, to the new Job Council helper, Tyra Wells, for helping to put together the annual publication, *Journeys to the Past...the Roads Least Taken*.

Without the extra help of these ladies, our annual publication would not have gotten in the mail.

**Marge Potter  
Book Shop Manager**

#### **Book Shop:**

Thanks for *Journeys to the Past*, great reading. Under "Wonder P.O.", the writer "wondered" when it closed. Richard Hebbock in *Oregon Post Offices* gives the dates from 12-21-03 to 8-31-57 when it became Wonder, rural station of Grants Pass until 12-31-59.

Between Lewis McArthur's, *Oregon Geographic Names*, Hebbock's *Oregon Post Offices* and the JCHS' *Journeys to the Past*, the county is well covered.

**Kenn Lantz  
JCHS Member**

*Watch for the special flyers included with this newsletter!*

*News from the Book Shop* will feature the hot items currently available, i.e., books on Indian History, Josephine County History, Railroad Favorites, Gold Rush Goodies, Wagon Train Days and "Just for Fun."

A variety of both t-shirts and polo shirts are being offered from \$10 to \$18. These shirts feature the JCHS logo and are 50/50 cotton polyester.

Always available are gift memberships to the JCHS--what a nice idea for someone who is interested in historical research, but doesn't have the means to pay for their own membership.

Don't forget! Christmas is just around the corner. By purchasing any of these items, not only will the recipient benefit by receiving these great gifts, but the JCHS profits as well!



Watch for the information coming in our next newsletter with regard to the Holiday Bake Sale.

### **ESTHER PLATT BRISTOL BOOK SIGNING**

Stop by the Schmidt House on Saturday, October 9 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm to have this vibrant, extraordinary, 95 years "young" woman sign a copy of her recently published book.

A compilation of her memories of Family Generations passed down, *Through the Years* includes stories of Esther's life growing up, and articles she has written.

Esther's services to the community include News Editor for the *Grants Pass Courier* during WWII, and her chartering of the RCC Foundation, becoming first secretary, just to name a few. Her honors include the Chamber of Commerce "First Citizen," the JCHS "Pioneer Spirit Award," and the first woman Honorary Member of the GP Rotary. Come down and meet her for yourself!

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## History at the Center

### Gifts that Continue to Give

The Josephine County Historical Society has been blessed throughout the years by many generous acts of kindness:

#### • The Schmidt House Legacy

In 1978, Anna and Flora Schmidt wrote to the Josephine County Historical Society, offering their home in which they had lived since 1901, as a gift to the Society. They hoped that by doing so they would enable the house to be preserved, as they had so carefully preserved it for many years.

When Anna Schmidt passed away late in 1987, many of the possessions with which her apartment had been furnished were left to the Society. These items have been used in the Schmidt House displays.

The Society moved into the house in 1983, furnishing rooms upstairs and the kitchen as period-style display rooms with the things that Anna and Flora had left behind.

What a generous gift to the people of this county!

#### • The Timberland Legacy

In late 1989, Fred Espy and his wife Maybell (Happy), gave the Josephine County Historical Society and the Humane Society of Josephine County a parcel of timbered real estate which had been in Fred's family since the 1880s.

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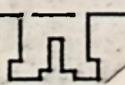
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This 18.28 acres, located on Brimstone Creek in Northern Josephine County, was donated to the Society through a trust agreement. The Society was able to select, cut and market timber on the property, with one half of the net income from such a harvest going to the Humane Society.

In the event of a sale of the property, the principal proceeds would be held in trust with the net income divided equally between the two non-profits.

Knowing that their gift provides a continually growing renewable resource, the Espy's were happy with the decision they made.

#### • The Heston Legacy

When Colonel LeRoy Gray Heston died in 1982, his entire estate was bequeathed to the Josephine County Historical Society.

Many items of Colonel Heston's serve as rotating displays in the Schmidt House. Some of the more popular items are those which he collected during his days in Kunming, China.

Colonel Heston fondly remembered Josephine County, and bestowed the Society, which represents it, with a lovely gift.

#### • The Roberts House Legacy

When the Ken Roberts Company needed additional land in 1995 to build a conference center on SW "I" Street, 3 homes occupied the land.

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H. Historical  
E. Equipment  
L. Location  
P. Project

## Support YOUR Society!

We are badly in need of new office equipment. Buy a polo or tee shirt - or make a donation - every dollar counts toward this project. Better equipment means more publications bringing you more history and enjoyment.

**THANKS!**

**T-SHIRTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE, THERE ARE ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER IN EACH SIZE AND COLOR , PLEASE ORDER EARLY TO GET BEST SELECTION.**

Order Form  
Josephine County Historical Society Shirts



Regular T-shirt or Polo Shirt

Polo Shirt	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	2X
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Cardinal w/ White					
Royal w/ White Logo					
Reg T-Shirt	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	2X
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Both shirts are light weight, 50/50 cotton polyester.

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one shirt indicate 1st and 2nd choice of color under each size. Thank You.**

Indicate how many of each style, size and color you want and return this form to us.

Make check payable to JCHS. If you can't pick them up, add \$3.20 shipping and handling for first shirt, \$1.00 each additional.

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Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ (in case there's a problem w/ your order)

Check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Postage \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total # of shirts \_\_\_\_\_





# News from the BookShop

## COMING SOON - THE CEMETERY CHRONICLES

### Indian History

Thunder Over the Ochoco - a series of excellent story-like reading from the beginning through the end of the Indian wars. Vol I and II, \$16.95 ea Vol III and IV, \$19.95 ea

The Forgotten Tribes - a Donald Hines book about the Teninos and mid-Columbia nations, \$12.95.

Until the Last Arrow - A Percy Booth book on the Indian wars, \$19.95.

Valley of the Rogues - another Percy Booth book on local Rogue Indians, softcover \$6.95, hardcover \$14.50

An Arrow in the Earth - by Terrance O'Donnell on Oregon Indians, \$24.95

### Josephine County History

A History of Josephine County - only 8 of these left - out of print - \$65.00

The Mythical State of Jefferson - also out of print - only 5 left - \$15.00

Josephine County Historical Highlights I & II - republished last year - limited numbers left - \$14.95 for either volume.

### Railroad Favorites

Early American Locomotives - with engravings, \$10.95

Railroad in the Woods - a wonderful hardback treasure for \$39.95

The Railroad - a "life in the old west" book, \$7.95



### Gold Rush Goodies

Sailors Diggings - a Society reprint for only \$6.95

Where to Find Gold in Oregon - \$19.95

The Gold Rush - another "life in the old west" book, \$7.95

Specialties in Hydraulic Mining Machinery - \$9.95

Hydraulic Supply Manufacturing - \$19.95

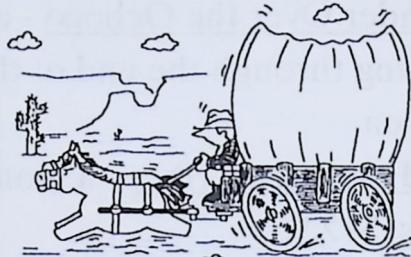
The Diary of a 49er - it's California, but it's the real thing, \$12.95



# Call 479-7827 and order today

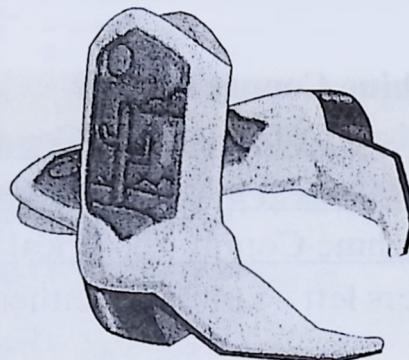
## Wagon Train Days

- They Settled in Applegate Country - \$15.95
- Ruch - Upper Applegate Valley history - \$12.95
- A Woman's Diary of the Barlow Road - \$9.95
- Over the Applegate - Pringle's Diary - \$13.95
- Wagon Train - "life in the old west" series - \$7.95



## Just for Fun

- Oregon Names and How to Say Them - \$9.95
- The State of Jefferson and Other Yarns - \$7.95
- Oregon Outlaws - \$17.95
- Homes of the Old West - \$7.95
- Bandanas   Chaps   Ten Gallon Hats - \$7.95 each
- Life on the Ranch - old west life - \$7.95
- Life on the Trail - \$7.95
- Who Settled the West - \$7.95
- Boomtowns of the West - \$7.95
- Something Different - Tale of a Lady Buckaroo - \$9.95
- Sourdough Cookbook - some great recipes - \$2.50



## Shipping and Handling

\$3.00 first book   \$2.00 each additional



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## *History at the Center*

Ken Roberts "gave back" to the community by donating one of the existing homes on the property to the Society. Marilyn Luttrell, and her committee at the Society, worked diligently to seek donations and raise funds to move and restore the 1925 home. This home is now our Research Library, previously located in the Schmidt Barn.

What a generous gift to the community...an historic home to house and preserve vital documents to the heritage of Josephine County.

### • The Hill Legacy

Edna May Hill, a wonderful contributor to the Josephine County Historical Society, continued her contributions even after her death.

When Edna May passed away in 1996, her family asked that contributions be made to the Society in Edna May's name.

Many people donated funds in memory of Edna May Hill. These funds really helped the Society.

### • The Memorial Legacy

Many of our members honor the memories of those they love by making a memorial gift. These special gifts are always noted on the back of these quarterly newsletters.

Financial contributions help with the operational expenses of the Josephine County Historical Society.

Since the Josephine County Historical Society receives no financial backing from the county, generous gifts are a lifeline for preserving our county's history. The current membership and future generations will be deeply grateful to individuals who had the foresight and generosity to provide such gifts.

The Society plays an important role in our community with its ongoing preservation of our county's heritage. Your continued financial assistance allows the Society to continue providing services to those researching local history, including both city and county school groups.

Leave A Legacy™ is a community-wide program to promote interest in charitable giving through a will or from an estate. Leave A Legacy™ works hand in hand with non-profit groups such as the Society to encourage this activity so that a difference can be made in the lives that follow.

While Leave A Legacy™ concentrates on gifts through a Will or Estate, non-profits such as the Society may also be helped in other various ways: 1) Consider a regular financial gift; 2) Think about giving appreciated stocks or property while still living; 3) Remember loved ones with memorial gifts; 4) Encourage family and friends to leave gifts in their Wills.

Leave A Legacy™ and help improve our quality of life.

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# *Historical Legacy*

## *Gifts that Continue to Give, con't.*

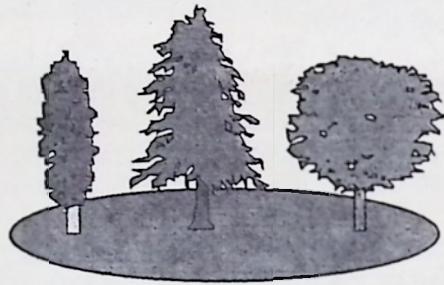
The Josephine County Historical Society is very committed to the historical research and preservation of Josephine County. Several people volunteer regularly and give financially as well. When these exceptional individuals are gone, their support is sorely missed.

By leaving a legacy through a gift in a Will, organizations in our community, such as the Society, may continue to be helped financially.

If Leaving a Legacy is of interest to you, take the following steps:

- Think about to whom and why you'd like to leave a gift.
- Do some investigating before leaving a gift if you need to know more about a particular organization. Call the non-profit group directly to better understand what they do.
- Contact your professional advisor for help to make certain that you are getting the maximum tax and legal advantages allowed.

Stop by the Society today to pick up a brochure--future generations are depending on it!



The JCHS would like to thank the Leave A Legacy™ organization for allowing us to use their brochure for this article, as well as, the *Mondays Make History* articles which appeared over the last few years in the *Grants Pass Daily Courier*.

**LEAVE A LEGACY™**  
brochures are available  
at the Research Library of the  
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Grants Pass, OR 97526  
-OR-  
Phone (541) 479-7827  
if you have any questions whatsoever

Leave a Legacy™ brochures are available at the Josephine County Historical Society. These brochures include such questions as:

**• Do I have to include my wish to leave a gift to a specific organization in my will?**

Your intention should be stated in your will to be certain that the group of choice receives the gift.

**• Must I have an estate in order to leave a gift?**

Most people leave an estate when they die, it is simply a word used to describe any property, money or personal belongings that are in your possession at the time of your death.

**• How do I leave a gift for an organization that I admire?**

This may be done in several ways, the most common being through a will. Many people set aside a particular dollar amount or a percentage of their estate.

**• Who can help me arrange for a gift?**

Speak with a professional, i.e., lawyer, accountant, insurance agent, financial planner.

**• How do I leave a gift in memory of a person or for a specified purpose?**

This type of memorial gift can be arranged in your will. Just make certain that the gift is given in memory of a particular person or for a specific use.

**• Do I tell the charity I've left the gift?**

It's up to you. Many charities may be able to tell you about specific opportunities for giving. They often like to know so that they can recognize your thoughtfulness and generosity.

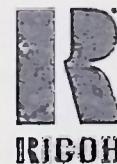
For detailed answers to these questions, please contact the Society for a copy of the Leave A Legacy™ brochure. While there, ask in what areas the Society could most benefit from a charitable donation.

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## *Community Blurbs . . .*

**Rogue Community College's FireHouse Gallery** needs your support. The gallery presents exhibits of quality artistic content that contribute to the educational environment. Their goal is to inspire appreciation, understanding and participation. Volunteers act as the gallery hosts. Become part of the team and join in our volunteer parties, gallery talks and rotating art shows. For more information, please call 956-7241.

**The Sunny Valley Applegate Trail Society** is sponsoring an Applegate Trail Reenactment on October 1, 2 and 3 in Sunny Valley. Join the fun, and make sure to note the Society's covered wagon which will be used at this annual event!

**YES, we still attend the Jo Co Fair!** We at the Society thought we had advertised enough, but apparently there are still some people who haven't found out that the JCHS is now helping the Sourdough Miners run the gold panning program at the fair. Sourdough Gulch is located almost at the end of the Midway. Next year, take a turn to the left by the barns known as the "4-H Barns" and visit awhile or strike it rich by panning!

**CONGRATULATIONS . . .**  
to longtime JCHS member Roger Ramsey and his new bride, Linda (Taylor). The happy couple were wed on Sunday, September 26, 1999 at White Horse Park. Friends and family gathered together for this joyful event and later celebrated with them at the potluck which followed the ceremony. We at the Society wish them a lifetime of love and happiness!

## *The JCHS Annual Awards Meeting*

**Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 14 at 2:30 p.m.** The Schmidt Barn will be the site of this year's event. A potluck, please bring your favorite dish to share, and don't forget utensils! Please put together and donate a gift basket for the silent auction--don't leave out creativity! This really is a nice event to attend--say farewell to the exiting board members and hello to the new inductees. Honor your family and/or friends by watching them receive their awards from the Society.

## *Schmidt House Agenda*

### **• All the Month of October**

An exhibit featuring the talents of the Siskiyou Decorative Artists will be showcased in the Schmidt House.

### **• Week of October 4 - Children's Week**

A variety of events have been geared toward the Wee Ones to inspire them. The Schmidt House will be open for tours from **10 am to 2 pm on Friday, October 8**, and, on **Saturday, October 9 from 1 pm to 2 pm**, tole painters will be in the Schmidt Gardens, demonstrating this media.

### **• Saturday, October 9 - Book Signing**

From **12 pm to 2 pm** at the Schmidt House, Esther Bristol will be available to chat and sign copies of her new book, *Through the Years*. Come on down and meet this remarkable woman!

### **• All the Month of December**

Angels in the Schmidt House will be appearing during the Christmas season; baked goodies in the Research Library, and many gift ideas in the Book Shop. Stay tuned for more details!

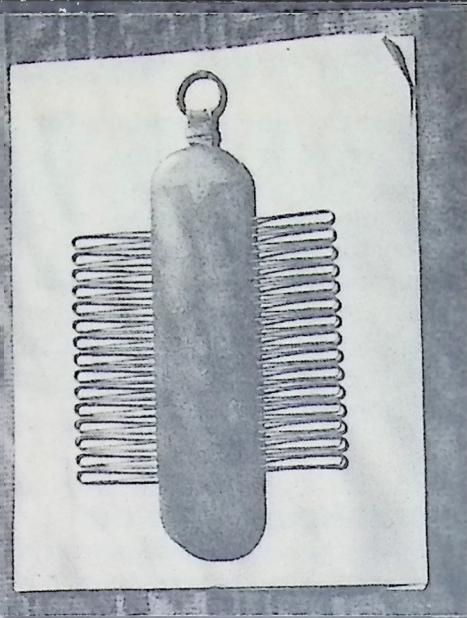
## **THE OLDTIMER**

is the newsletter of the Josephine County Historical Society  
**512 SW 5th Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526 (541) 479-7827**

Annual dues are \$15.00 and include a subscription.

Lee Ann Tardieu -- Editor

Quarterly circulation of THE OLDTIMER is 650.  
The publishing committee also produces an annual historical publication,  
mailed free of charge to all members of the society.



While visiting the Schmidt House, this brass and imitation leather object caught the eye of Barbara Ezell, volunteer at the Baldwin Hotel in Klamath Falls. Intrigued, Ezell took this photo and researched the JCHS' "mystery object."

Any guesses? Give up? This is a hanger for hair ribbons or neckties, donated in 1989 by Harvey R. Isham from the Josephine Buntin Estate.

*The Josephine County Historical Society  
acknowledges the generosity of:*

Mark Axtell	Ray DeBolt Jewelers
Freda Babcock	Trubee Jones
B. Barker	Marie Jorgensen
Ernest & Madge Bearss	Richard Mayfield
Linda Becroft	Michael O'Brien
Caroline Berkman	Bob Rapp
Sara Blevens	Grace Regester
Dan Burnakus	Carl Setera
Bob Byrd	Joel Slaughter
Del Chausse	Adeline Sullivan
Don Deardoff	Sally M. Thomason
Bernice Dodd	Charles Vannice
Dennis & Karen Doyle	Keith Woodward
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*A Donation in Memory of Dorothy Francis  
Ethel Blakely*

*Special thanks to:  
The Newsletter Sponsors*

*Joan Momsen  
Bob and Janet Lane  
Tom and Pat Bristol  
for their generous, on-going support!*

## **THE OLDTIMER NEWSLETTER**

*Josephine County Historical Society*

*Museum & Research Library*

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mailing address changes or if you receive duplicate newsletters. THANK YOU!**